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WHAT IS CLAIMED as being new, useful and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

A method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) adding a urethane-based thickener compound to water;
- b) dispersing said thickener compound in said water by mixing until a uniform water/thickener solution is formed;
- c) adding an alkaline earth metal sulfonate or sulfonate-containing mixture to said water/thickener mixture; and
- d) mixing said alkaline earth metal sulfonate or sulfonate-containing mixture together with said water/thickener solution until a uniform emulsion is formed.

An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1.

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